

# **Programme Specification**

# A statement of the knowledge, understanding and skills that underpin a taught programme of study leading to an award from The University of Sheffield

1	Programme Title	Civil and Structural Engineering					
2	Programme Code	CIVU03					
3	JACS Code	H200					
4	Level of Study	Undergraduate					
5a	Final Qualification	Master of Engineering (MEng)					
5b	QAA FHEQ Level	Master's = Level 7					
6	Intermediate Qualification	BEng in Civil Engineering for students transferring their registration in Years 1 or 2 (see separate programme specification)					
6b	QAA FHEQ Level	Level 6					
7	Teaching Institution (if not Sheffield)	Not applicable					
8	Faculty	Engineering					
9	Department	Civil and Structural Engineering					
10	Other Departments involved in teaching the programme	Core teaching:					
11	Mode of Attendance	Full-time					
12	Duration of the Programme	4 years (MEng); 3 years (BEng);					
13	Accrediting Professional or Statutory Body	Joint Board of Moderators (JBM) of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE), Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation (CIHT) and Institute of Highway Engineers (IHE), Permanent Way Institution (PWI) <a href="https://www.jbm.org.uk">https://www.jbm.org.uk</a>					
14	Date of production/revision	March 2015, March 2018, September 2023, October 2024					

## 15. Background to the programme and subject area

Civil engineers are responsible for the design, construction and maintenance of the infrastructure that supports human living, trade and industry. This includes the provision of shelter, water supply, sanitation, transportation, energy and structures of all kinds. Structural engineers design and verify the safety of the buildings, bridges and other structures essential to modern society. In order to qualify, professional engineers must obtain appropriate academic qualifications, accredited by the relevant professional institutions, and must also obtain sufficient practical experience and training.

The MEng Civil and Structural Engineering programme at Sheffield is designed to inspire and prepare students to address the complex, global civil and structural engineering challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and to maintain our current status as offering one of the leading undergraduate degrees in this field. By providing a co-ordinated and balanced programme, delivered by staff working in research and staff with industrial experience, the programme integrates core engineering science with practical application, aiming to inspire students and to challenge them to excel academically, whilst preparing them to enter professional practice or research.

The MEng degree in Civil and Structural Engineering fully satisfies the educational base requirements for a Chartered Engineer.

Strengths of this programme stem from the development of a sound technical base in engineering principles and skills in the first two years, which is built on and complemented by application to increasingly complex problems. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> year this includes undertaking a challenging design project involving independent and multi-disciplinary

group working. Groups combine a range of technical, professional and management skills and knowledge to provide an integrated solution to a realistic design problem. The final year consolidates previous learning and provides opportunity to extend knowledge into specialist areas through an individual research project and by exposing students to cutting-edge, research-led Masters-level teaching and project work.

The department has a strong research focus, with students taught by active research academics throughout their programme. The programme includes significant industrial involvement, with a variety of industry speakers, lectures, industrial tutors for design projects, and site visits.

The department also has strong links with alumni and an Industry Partnership careers event which provides opportunities for graduate jobs, work placements and advice on career opportunities. Graduates from this programme have a very strong employability record with most going on to jobs in Civil or Structural Engineering.

There is also an opportunity for students to spend part of their fourth-year undertaking part of their final year project at a university in Europe.

Further information about both the programme and the Department may be found on the internet at <a href="http://www.shef.ac.uk/civil/ug">http://www.shef.ac.uk/civil/ug</a>.

### 16. Programme aims

The overall aims of our MEng Civil and Structural Engineering programme are to prepare students to address the complex, global civil engineering challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and to engender a commitment to professional development, life-long learning and social responsibility, thus creating graduates who have the capacity to make a beneficial impact in their chosen career. In doing this, we aim to provide the educational base for a Chartered Civil / Structural Engineer.

The key objectives of this programme are:

- to provide students with a sound technical foundation in the key areas of civil and structural engineering, as well as a more detailed and critical understanding in selected areas of specialist structural engineering.
- 2. to introduce the multi-disciplinary, global and professional context in which civil and structural engineering projects are developed, enabling students to develop an appreciation of the professional responsibilities of civil and structural engineers to society and the environment.
- 3. to develop students' ability to produce effective, innovative designs solutions for the benefit of humanity, by taking a holistic approach, integrating engineering principles, subject-specialist knowledge with professional engineering skills and attitudes.
- 4. for students to develop independence of thought, a critical approach to new information and ability to make rational, evidence-based decisions.
- 5. for students to develop key engineering and professional skills and attitudes valued by employers, including ability to communicate clearly and effectively in a professional environment and to plan and manage work both independently and as part of a diverse but integrated team.
- 6. to inspire intellectual curiosity and develop the breadth of vision for students to become life-long learners by appreciating the need to adapt and keep up to date with changing knowledge and requirements.

#### 17. Programme learning outcomes

# Knowledge and understanding:

On successful completion of the programme, candidates for MEng and BEng will have developed:

		,
<b>K</b> 1	broad knowledge and understanding of fundamental concepts, principles and theories of engineering science relevant to civil engineering.	Teaching / learning methods & strategies (see section 18) K1, K2 and K3 are developed through a combination of lectures, tutorials / example classes, practical laboratory classes, small group project work, design classes and
K2	broad knowledge and understanding of the mathematics necessary to represent physical concepts and apply engineering science to civil engineering.	coursework assignments mainly in Y1 and Y2, but also extending into Y3 of the course.  K4 is developed mainly through practical classes, design classes and coursework assignments, supported by lectures where relevant.
К3	broad knowledge and understanding of analytical and design methods used in civil and structural engineering.	K5 is developed through lectures, group project work, design classes and coursework assignments supported by seminars.

K4	knowledge and understanding of the use of information and computation technology for analysis, design and management.				
K5	an understanding of the operation of the civil engineering industry, including business practice and project management.				
K6	an understanding of the professional and ethical responsibilities of civil engineers, the global context and impacts of civil engineering projects, and the social, environmental, ethical, economic and commercial considerations and constraints that influence engineering decisions.				
In addition, candidates for MEng will have developed:					
	advanced knowledge and understanding in				

selected areas, particularly in structural

This starts in Y1 but is principally developed in Y3 and Y4. K6 is developed through a combination of lectures, coursework and small group work in Y1 and 2 and the Y3 group design project.

K7 is developed through a combination of lectures, tutorials/ example classes, practical laboratory classes and small group project work, mainly in Y3 and Y4 of the course. These methods include the major Y3 design project and the individual research project in Y4 of the course.

#### Assessment (see section 18)

Knowledge and understanding are assessed through a combination of written examinations / class tests (K1-K3, K6, K7), assessed coursework (K1-K7), laboratory reports (K1, K2), group and individual design project reports (K3, K5-K7), oral presentations and interviews (K1, K3, K5-K7).

#### Skills and other attributes:

engineering.

On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to:

Intellectual skills:

**K7** 

111011	ectual skills.
S1	Use engineering science, mathematics and, where appropriate, information technology to analyse and develop solutions to engineering problems.
S2	Analyse and interpret experimental and other numerical data.
S3	Design a system, component, process or structure to meet a need.
S4	Be creative and innovative in solving unfamiliar problems and developing designs.
S5	Take an integrated / holistic approach to solving problems and developing designs, applying professional judgement to take into account risks, costs, benefits, safety, reliability, social and environmental impact.
S6	Integrate and evaluate information and data from a variety of sources, exercising independent thought and judgement, taking a critical approach to new information.
<b>S</b> 7	Undertake health and safety risk assessments and devise safe systems of working.
S8	Plan and perform and report a programme of original research to investigate a technical problem.

# Teaching / learning methods & strategies (see section 18)

Intellectual skills are developed over the course of the 4year programme through the teaching / learning methods outlined above and in section 18.

Analysis and problem-solving skills (S1, S2) are developed through coursework in the form of problem sheets, supported by tutorial / example classes as well as through laboratory classes and small group / design projects.

Further design and problem-solving skills (S3, S4, & S5) are developed mainly through design classes, individual and group project work and coursework assignments. Experimental and research skills (S2, S6, S7, S8) are developed through coursework activities, practical laboratory analysis and the Y3 group design project, as well as through the individual research project.

### Assessment (see section 18)

Intellectual skills associated with analysis, problem solving, and design are assessed through a combination of written examinations (S1), coursework assignments (S1-S7), lab reports (S2, S7), group and individual project reports and presentations / interviews (S3-S6, S8).

Pract	ical skills:								
S9	Plan and conduct safely practical experiments to investigate engineering behaviour and material properties.	Teaching / learning methods & strategies (see section 18) Practical skills are developed over the course of the 4-year programme as outlined above and in section 18.							
S10	Use laboratory equipment to generate data.	Practical experimental skills, surveying, drawing and writing computer programmes (S10-S13) are introduced in Y1 through							
<b>S11</b>	Undertake basic surveying activities.	lectures and undertaking practical laboratory, surveying and computer classes, sketching and drawing / design classes. These							
S12	Prepare technical sketches and drawings, using hand or computer methods as appropriate.	are developed through coursework submissions and through group project work. These skills are further developed in later years, particularly in laboratory practicals and group project work.							
S13	Write computer programs to perform analysis of engineering problems.	Use of computer software, scientific literature and skills in technical communication (S14-16) are introduced through lectures and project work and developed through application in group projects							
S14	Use commercial computer software for analysis and design.	and coursework assignments.							
S15	Use published scientific / engineering literature effectively.	Assessment (see section 18) Practical skills are assessed through coursework assignments (S9-							
S16	Prepare technical reports and give technical presentations.	S16), lab reports (S9, S10), class tests (S14), group and individual project reports and presentations / interviews (S11-S16).							
Gene	ral Transferable Skills:								
S17	Use information technology for communication and presentation.	Teaching / learning methods & strategies (see section 18) General transferable skills are developed over the course of the 4-							
S18	Communicate effectively (in writing, orally and through drawings).	year programme as outlined above and in section 18.  Communication and presentation skills (S17, S18) are developed							
S19	Collaborate with others in interdisciplinary teams.	through practice in group project work and feedback on reports, coursework assignments and in individual project work.  Teamworking and planning and management skills (S19, S20) are							
S20	Plan and manage their time and resources efficiently.	developed throughout the programme, particularly through group design projects and the Y3 integrated design project. In particular,							
S21	Find information and learn independently in familiar and unfamiliar situations, through critical enquiry.	the interdisciplinary teamworking and project management is introduced in the Y1 and Y2 faculty interdisciplinary project weeks.  Students are encouraged to reflect on their learning and progress (S22) in individual progress reviews with their academic tutor.							
S22	Review their experience and level of competence and plan further personal / professional development in a wide context throughout their career.	Reflection on learning and personal and professional development forms part of the Y1 Skills module and Y3 integrated design project.							
		Assessment (see section 18)							
		S17 and S18 are assessed through group and individual coursework submissions and project work.							
		S19 is assessed within group design projects, in particular, the Y3							
		group design project. S20 and S21 are assessed through the final year individual project,							
		and other group design projects and individual coursework.							
		S22 is mainly assessed through the Y3 integrated design project and the final year individual project.							

#### 18. Teaching, learning and assessment

# Development of the learning outcomes is promoted through the following teaching and learning methods:

- Lectures used to transmit information, explain theories and concepts, and illustrate methods of analysis
  or design. For most lecture programmes tutorial sheets are provided to enable students to develop their
  understanding during private study.
- Practical classes students undertake laboratory experiments, surveying and computing to gain practical skills
- **Coursework assignments -** generally require students to seek additional information and work on their own, or sometimes in small groups, to develop understanding of subject matter.
- Tutorials and example classes run for small groups or a whole class to help students with their understanding and to resolve problems as they work through tutorial sheets.
- **Design classes -** students work to solve design problems related to real engineering situations in order to learn design methods and to practise associated analytical techniques.
- **Individual investigative project** a major study carried out over two semesters and involving a significant research component. It is supervised by a member of the academic staff but allows the student ample scope to display initiative, originality and creativity.
- Group projects teams, typically of 4 6 students, collaborate to tackle realistic design and field-based
  engineering projects by working through various design stages from concept and elaboration of design
  briefs to elements of detailed design. These projects, which increase in complexity over the duration of the
  course, develop a wide range of skills, including team-working and communication skills as well as further
  developing technical skills.

**Formative feedback** is provided in all modules, sometimes through the teaching and learning methods outlined above (e.g. advice in tutorial, example and design classes) and sometimes in the form of written comments or verbal discussion relating to coursework assignments. The feedback is usually given by academic staff and teaching assistants, but also through organised peer- and self-assessment, which are very effective learning methods.

# Opportunities to demonstrate achievement of the learning outcomes are provided through the following assessment methods:

- Written examinations typically of 2 or 3 hours duration.
- Coursework submissions these include design studies, computational assignments, laboratory reports and essays.
- Class tests tests conducted in a lecture theatre or workroom during the main teaching periods to assess progress, as an alternative to more formal assessment methods.
- Oral presentations and interviews most group design projects involve an oral presentation of the
  proposed design in which each group member plays a part. The audience may include industrial visitors
  and fellow students. An individual interview with two academic staff is held as part of the assessment of the
  Individual Investigative Project.
- Individual project reports these include intermediate and final written reports for the Individual Investigative Project and other written reports describing individual work and experience gained in group design projects.
- Group design project reports written reports assembled by teams of students with shared authorship.

The teaching, learning and assessment methods adopted for each learning outcome are shown in the following table. In most cases a combination of methods is used.

	TEACHING / LEARNING					AS	ASSESSMENT						
LEARNING OUTCOME  (abbreviated - see Section 17  for full text)	Lectures	Practical classes	Coursework assignments	Tutorials /examples classes	Design classes	Individual investigative project	Group design projects	Written examinations	Coursework submissions	Class tests	Oral presentations / interviews	Individual project reports	Group design project reports
K1 Fundamental principles													
K2 Mathematics													
K3 Analytical / design methods													
K4 Information technology													
K5 Industry / business operation													
K6 Professional & ethical responsibility													
K7 Advanced topics incl. structural engineering													
S1 Analyse problems													
S2 Analyse / interpret data													
S3 Design to meet a need													
S4 Be creative / innovative													
S5 Produce integrated designs													
S6 Exercise independent judgement													
S7 Carry out risk assessment													
S8 Plan & perform technical investigation													
S9 Plan and conduct experiments													
S10 Generate data													
S11 Undertake surveying													
S12 Prepare sketches / drawings													
S13 Write computer programs													
S14 Use commercial software													
S15 Use published literature													
S16 Communicate technical info													
S17Use information technology													
S18 Communicate effectively													
S19 Collaborate in teams													
S20 Manage time efficiently													
S21 Learn independently													
S22 Manage professional development													

Proportions of types of assessment by level can be found on the UniStats website: <a href="http://unistats.direct.gov.uk/">http://unistats.direct.gov.uk/</a>

Detailed information about the structure of programmes, regulations concerning assessment and progression, and descriptions of individual modules are published in the University Calendar available on-line at <a href="http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/calendar/regs">http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/calendar/regs</a>.

#### 19. Reference points

### The learning outcomes have been developed to reflect the following points of reference:

Subject Benchmark Statements

https://www.gaa.ac.uk/guality-code/subject-benchmark-statements

Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (2024)

https://www.gaa.ac.uk/the-quality-code/qualifications-frameworks#

Guidelines for Accredited MEng Degree Programmes leading to Chartered Engineer, Joint Board of Moderators of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE), Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation (CIHT) Institute of Highway Engineers (IHE) and Permanent Way Institution (PWI) 2023 https://www.jbm.org.uk/accreditation-guidance/

The Accreditation of Higher Education Programmes, UK SPEC, 2020 (Fourth Edition) Engineering Council <a href="https://www.engc.org.uk/standards-guidance/standards/uk-spec/">https://www.engc.org.uk/standards-guidance/standards/uk-spec/</a>

University Vision and Strategic Plan

https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/vision

Education Strategy (2020-27)

https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/vision/our-pillars/education

In assessing the learning outcomes, the level of performance, e.g. the extent of knowledge and depth of understanding, will comply with guidance given in the above references.

#### 20. Programme structure and regulations

The programme structure is modular and in each year students study modules worth a total of 120 credits.

In the first and second year, the programmes comprise mainly 20-credit modules and the curriculum has major components of mathematics and applied science including structural analysis, structural design, geotechnical engineering, materials, water engineering as well as introducing key skills such as drawing and sketching, programming and surveying. Tutor groups are also paired with an industrial mentor, and students visit their mentor's office and / or site to gain an introduction to work in industry.

In Year 1, students also participate in a compulsory week-long "Global Engineering Challenge". Based on the Engineers without Borders Challenge (a national challenge for engineering undergraduates), students from across the Faculty of Engineering work together in multi-disciplinary teams to tackle a real-world problem with a global perspective. In Year 2, students take part in the compulsory week-long project "Engineering: You're Hired". Again, working with students from other engineering disciplines, this project requires them to apply their technical skills and engineering judgement to develop proposals for a technical industrially relevant problem. The projects enable students to develop a range of professional and technical competences, including awareness of the global context of their decisions, communication skills, cultural agility and enterprising problem solving.

In the third year, the curriculum is broader and involves consolidation of previous learning and application to real, complex situations, as well as an introduction to the more independent driven ethos of the fourth year and development of data analysis capacity via a module on research skills. A key feature of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year programme is a full semester (60-credits) of design projects that develop through the design process from initial brief and concepts to detailed design. This major project, which involves self-directed teamwork and requires innovative conceptual thinking skills in a multi-discipline environment is based on a real site in Sheffield. The final part of the project involves considering the risks, requirements and adaptations for undertaking a similar project in a specific international context.

The final year includes a 30-credit individual investigative project and a variety of optional Masters-level modules that provide opportunity to extend knowledge into specialist areas by exposing students to cutting-edge, research-led teaching.

During Years 1 and 2, students may transfer their registration to study for a BEng in Civil Engineering. At the end of the second and third years, students not meeting specified progression targets will be required to transfer their registration to BEng Civil Engineering. In the fourth year, normally no changes of registration are allowed.

Detailed information about the structure of programmes, regulations concerning assessment and progression, and descriptions of individual modules are published in the University Calendar available on-line at <a href="http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/calendar/regs">http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/calendar/regs</a>.

# 21. Student development over the course of study

Level 1 (1st Year)	Students are introduced to the principal civil engineering subjects and fundamental engineering principles and will be able to apply standard methods to analyse relatively simple problems in these areas. They undertake practical experiments and programming and will be able to present, interpret and evaluate data reliably. They also participate in design exercises requiring conceptual thinking, logical argument and judgement, and allowing the development of communication skills and teamwork.
Level 2 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Year)	Students gain more extensive knowledge and deeper understanding of the principal civil engineering subjects and principles. They will be able to select and apply established methods of analysis to solve more difficult problems. They undertake more detailed design work in which some elements of professional practice are introduced. Students' practical and transferable skills will be further developed.
Level 3 (3 <sup>rd</sup> Year)	Students are exposed to advanced methods of analysis for a range of civil and structural engineering problems and apply these methods in project work. They also enhance their knowledge and understanding of technical, design, and professional issues and construction and project management, and develop a greater understanding of academic, civil engineering research. Over the course of the second semester, students have the opportunity to experience the design process by working in inter-disciplinary teams on proposals for the redevelopment of a real brownfield site in Sheffield. The exciting and challenging project involves integrating a wide range of technical engineering design and management issues into development of a scheme from initial site and stakeholder analysis through option identification and evaluation to production of design calculations, detailed design drawings and models. This project develops skills in self-directed teamwork and requires innovative conceptual thinking skills in a multi-discipline environment. Students research, apply and integrate technical, professional and management knowledge, develop skills in creativity, independent research and judgement and ability to work with uncertainty, manage risk and adapt to changing environments.
Level 4	Students enhance their depth and breadth of knowledge and understanding through a range of optional, technically advanced masters-level classes, with exposure to cutting-edge research-led teaching. Students also undertake a major individual investigative project, developing their ability to work independently, and carry out research, critically evaluating information and communicating effectively.
(4 <sup>th</sup> Year)	On successful completion of the programme, students will be well prepared for a career in civil / structural engineering and a range of other careers. They will have obtained the necessary academic qualification and educational base required to become a Chartered Engineer. They will also be able to assess whether or not they have the ability, motivation and interest to pursue post-graduate education in civil engineering.

### 22. Criteria for admission to the programme

Detailed information regarding admission to programmes is available from the Department's website at <a href="http://www.shef.ac.uk/civil/ug">http://www.shef.ac.uk/civil/ug</a>.

#### 23. Additional information

Every student has a academic tutor who is a member of the academic staff. The academic tutor is available to provide help and advice on all aspects of university life, including career decisions. In addition, Year 1 students see their tutor at a series of structured meetings to discuss personal skills and professional issues.

One of the aims of the programmes is to assist students in developing a commitment to self-improvement and continuing professional development. Throughout the programmes, students are encouraged to think about and record their skills development, producing a portfolio to demonstrate achievement of some of the competences required by the Institution of Civil Engineers for graduates aiming to become Chartered Engineers.

Students electing to study in Europe during the fourth year normally receive a contribution to the costs of travel and accommodation from EU funds.

Further information about both the programme and the Department of Civil and Structural Engineering can be found on the internet at http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/civil

This specification represents a concise statement about the main features of the programmes and should be considered alongside other sources of information provided by the teaching department(s) and the University. In addition to programme specific information, further information about studying at The University of Sheffield can be accessed via our Student Services web site at <a href="http://www.shef.ac.uk/ssid">http://www.shef.ac.uk/ssid</a>.